

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----087531 231335Z /42

P 231109Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6136
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CINCPACREPPH SUBIC BAY RP
13THAF CLARK AB RP

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 08506

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: BASE NEGOTIATIONS--NEXT STEP: MEETING WITH
- PRESIDENT MARCOS MAY 23

REF: (A) MANILA 08338; (B) CINCPAC AIRBORNE 200527Z MAY 78

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS SUGGESTED THAT NEXT STEP IN GETTING MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY BE FOR U.S. BASE COMMANDERS TO MAKE EARLY CONTACT WITH GENERAL ESPINO TO DISCUSS AGENDA AND PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSION. MARCOS WANTS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS TO BE REACHING AGREEMENT ON AMOUNT AND BOUNDARIES OF LANDS DESIGNATED FOR U.S. FACILITIES. WHILE WE HAVE NOT YET HAD CHANCE TO DISCUSS THESE SUGGESTIONS WITH U.S. BASE COMMANDERS, OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT WE SHOULD ACCEPT THEM.

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END SUMMARY.

2. PALACE ADVISED LATE MAY 22 P.M. THAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS (REF A) WOULD TAKE PLACE MAY 23 AT 11:30 A.M. THE MEETING LASTED JUST OVER A HALF HOUR (WITH NO ONE ELSE PRESENT ON EITHER SIDE).

3. PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID HE WAS SORRY IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RECEIVE ADMIRAL WEISNER LAST WEEK (REF B) BUT HE WAS PERFORMING AN ESSENTIAL DUTY--SPENDING SOME TIME IN THE PROVINCES. HE SAID HE PLANNED ANOTHER VISIT TO THE PROVINCES IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE DAYS, PROBABLY AGAIN IN NORTHERN LUZON.

4. I THEN CONVEYED THE POINTS ADMIRAL WEISNER HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INCLUDING THE INTENTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT TO BECOME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS REGARDING THE \$5 MILLION MAP REDUCTION. I NOTED THE SFRC VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE FULL \$18.1 MILLION WAS, IN AN IMPORTANT WAY, THE RESULT OF PERSONAL APPEALS FROM VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE. I SAID THE HIRC-SFRC CONFERENCE WAS SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN JULY, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD WORK HARD FOR THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE FIGURE, BUT NOTED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PREDICTION OF A TOUGH FIGHT AND CONSEQUENT INABILITY TO GUARANTEE SUCCESS. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT THE PRESENT FIGHT RELATES TO THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS AND THAT THERE WOULD BE SIMILAR BATTLES IN THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS, MARCOS LAUGHED AND SAID THAT SAME MESSAGE HAD COME THROUGH CLEARLY FROM MELCHOR. (COMMENT: MARCOS GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF BELIEVING THAT MELCHOR IS VERY ACTIVE AND DOING A VERY GOOD JOB IN MAKING CONTACTS ON THE HILL.) I CONCLUDED POINTS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT BY NOTING HIS
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PLEASURE WITH MARCOS' CHOICE OF GENERAL ESPINO TO HEAD THE PHILIPPINE PANEL. I THEN ASKED WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAW AS THE NEXT STEP IN GETTING MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS UNDER WAY.

5. MARCOS INITIALLY SAID HE HAD ALREADY INSTRUCTED ESPINO TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE U.S. COMMANDERS OF SUBIC AND CLARK SO THAT DISCUSSIONS COULD BEGIN PROMPTLY ON A LARGE VARIETY OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS--"THE AMOUNT AND BOUNDARIES OF LAND REQUIRED BY U.S. FACILITIES, THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURITY OF THE BASES AND OF THE U.S. FACILITIES, THE DISPOSITION OF GRANDE ISLAND, THE SUBIC WATERSHED, THE SUBIC TRAINING AREA THE WATERS OF THE BAY, ETC." AT THE END OF THE MEETING, HOWEVER, MARCOS INDICATED IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO INSTRUCT GENERAL ESPINO ALONG THESE LINES. HE ALSO COMMENTED IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. BASE COMMANDERS TO APPROACH GENERAL ESPINO TO ARRANGE A MEETING TO WORK OUT AN AGENDA AND PROCEDURES OF THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS. MARCOS STRESSED HE CONSIDERS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LANDS NEEDED FOR U.S. FACILITIES.

6. COMMENT: MARCOS HAD JUST COME FROM A 15-MINUTE MEETING (WHICH I OBSERVED FROM THE SIDELINES) WITH ABOUT 100 U.S. VETERANS FROM THE ELEVENTH AIRBORNE DIVISION (WHICH HELPED LIBERATE THE PHILIPPINES IN WORLD WAR II) WHERE HE WAS SWAMPED WITH AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION. HE HAD ALSO MADE SOME VERY FRIENDLY REMARKS TO THE VETERANS ABOUT THE U.S. (E.G., "THE U.S. IS THE PHILIPPINES' STAUNCHIST ALLY," "A COUNTRY WE KNOW WE CAN COUNT ON," "WE AND MOST OTHER ASIAN NATIONS WANT THE U.S. TO REMAIN IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC FOR

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6137
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EXDIS

IT IS TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL OF US.") HE WAS, THEREFORE, IN A BUOYANT MOOD FROM THE OUTSET AND THE POINTS CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SEEMED TO MAKE HIM EVEN MORE BUOYANT.

7. WE PLAN DISCUSS MARCOS' SUGGESTIONS WITH BASE COMMANDER IN DEPTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OUR INITIAL REACTION, HOWEVE IS THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW MARCOS' SUGGESTION THAT U.S. BASE COMMANDERS MAKE EARLY CONTACT WITH ESPINO TO DISCUSS AGENDA FOR AND PROCEDURES OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS. PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGES OF FOLLOWING MARCOS' SUGGESTION ARE:

- -- PSYCHOLOGICAL, I.E. WE WOULD BE FOLLOWING MARCOS' LEAD;
- -- THIS WOULD HELP PIN DOWN ESPINO IN KEY ROLE M PHI SIDE;
- -- THIS WOULD SEEM TO OFFER WAY OF GETTING MILITARY-

TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND
UNENCUMBERED WAY.

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8. WE WILL MAKE FURTHER COMMENTS RE PROCEDURES AND AGENDA
FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH BASE COMMANDERS. TOUSSAINT

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